Production of wheat

†*18. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the final assessment made by Government, the production of wheat has increased in comparision to the previous first assessment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of production estimated by Government in the first and final assessment respectively; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the assessment made by private agencies the production of wheat is estimated to be 78 million tonnes, if so, the reasons for difference in the assessments made by Government and private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the 4th advance estimates made by the Government for 2006-07 released on 19th July, 2007, production of wheat in the country was assessed at 74.89 million tonnes as compared to the assessment of 73.70 million tonnes in the 3rd advance estimates released on 4th April, 2007 and assessment of 72.50 million tonnes in the 2nd advance estimates released on 5th February, 2007. It may be stated that while the 2nd advance estimate was based on the reported area covered under wheat and yield levels observed in the past, the 4th advance estimate was based on actual area coverage and yield levels estimated based on crop cutting experiments. The production of wheat increased during 2006-07 on account of area expansion and favourable weather conditions at different stages of crop growth.

(c) The wheat production estimates for 2006-07 reported by different newspapers at various points of time quoting industry and trade sources varied from 69 million tonnes to 78 million tonnes. The estimates of private agencies are largely subjective assessments based on the market sentiments. The Government estimates, on the other hand, as stated above are based on the area coverage under the crop and yield estimates based on the crop cutting experiments as reported by the State Governments at various stages of the crop.

Electrification of rail Lines in Uttar Pradesh

†* 19. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines for which the plan of electrification has been formulated by Government in the year 2007-08; and

(b) the names of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh for which there is a proposal of electrification and renewal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The plan for electrification has been formulated in 2007-08 to take up electrification of following three railway lines:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Sl. No.	Name of the Section	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Route Kms.
1.	Jalandhar - Jammu Tawi as phase-I of Jalandhar- Jammu Tawi-Baramula	95.46	222
2.	Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai	86.33	154
3.	Barabanki-Gonda-Gorakhpur-Barauni as Phase I of Barabanki-Barauni-Guwahati	526.44	729

(b) The proposal for electrification and renewal of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Section	Route Kms.	Remarks
1.	Kanpur-Jhansi	220	Under examination for electrification
2.	Varanasi-Janghai-Unchahaar including Phaphamau-Prayag-Allahabad	207	Under examination for electrification

Vacant posts of agricultural scientists

*20. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of agricultural scientists lying vacant in different agriculture universities and agriculture science centres as on 31st March, 2007 and since when they are lying vacant;

(b) the effect of vacant posts of scientists on agricultural research and agriculture schemes; and

(c) the action taken by Government to fill the vacant posts of agricultural scientists and by when these posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) extends limited financial assistance to State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for strengthening and development of agricultural education. Filling up positions in the SAUs is in the domain of the concerned State Government.

However, 1931 vacancies in various grades of the scientific cadre exist in the ICAR Institutions as on 31.03.2007. These vacancies were primarily (i) due to restrictions imposed on filling up of vacancies on direct recruitment since May, 2001 and (ii) mass retirement after October, 2005 consequent on enhancement of the age of superannuation from 60 to 62 years.

(b) Research work has been managed by judicious re-deployment of available scientific manpower.